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Viewing cable 09NICOSIA75, CYPRUS: M/V MONCHEGORSK ANCHORED OFF LIMASSOL

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09NICOSIA75**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09NICOSIA75	2009-01-29 09:25	2011-08-30 01:44	SECRET	Embassy Nicosia

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.tanea.gr>

VZCZCXRO7789
OO RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHNP RUEHROV
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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9566
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE 2129
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE 0284
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 6460
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RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T NICOSIA 000075

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR, NEA, ISN, P

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/28/2019

TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [MNUC](#) [SY](#) [IR](#) [CY](#)

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: M/V MONCHEGORSK ANCHORED OFF LIMASSOL

REF: A. NICOSIA 73

[1](#)B. NICOSIA 58

Classified By: Ambassador Frank C. Urbancic, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

[1](#)1. (S) Ship's Location and Status: USS Barry reported that the M/V Monchegorsk entered Cypriot territorial waters at 0315 Zulu on January 29. Roughly four hours later, it arrived at the port of Limassol, where it remains at anchorage.

[1](#)2. (C) Diplomatic Activity: The evening of January 28, Israeli DCM informed Embassy Econoff that GoI Ambassador Avrahaam Haddad had been in close contact with RoC Diplomatic Coordinator Leonidas Pantelides regarding the Monchegorsk. Haddad telephoned the Ambassador on January 29 to brief on his activities and request a recap of USG actions.

[1](#)3. (C) The Ambassador at 1030 hrs local (0330 DC) telephoned Pantelides to commend Cyprus's decision to bring the Monchegorsk to Limassol. Ambassador reminded Pantelides that the Cypriots' letter of recall which he (Pantelides) had shared with us specifically informed the Monchegorsk "that any cargo not in conformity with UN Security Resolutions 1747 and 1803 must be unloaded in Limassol to avoid infringement of the UNSCRs and violation of RoC shipping rules and regulations." Ambassador again offered U.S. technical assistance in the matter. He also solicited the RoC's envisioned way-forward, and consulted on a strategy for handling media inquiries -- Ambassador told Pantelides that the Embassy would refrain from making any comments beyond what was already in the press and would refer questions to the Foreign Ministry. (Note: Leading daily "Phileleftheros" on January 29 ran an article on the Monchegorsk, essentially a translation of a days-earlier AP story in which CJCS ADM Mullen allegedly voiced U.S. disappointment over its inability to detain the Monchegorsk in the Red Sea.)

[1](#)4. (C) Pantelides confirmed that the Monchegorsk was at anchor in Limassol, but would provide little specific on Cyprus's planned course of action. Early reports from RoC maritime officials had corroborated the existence of large quantities of high explosives on board, a fact, Pantelides noted, that troubled the Cypriots on safety grounds. He confirmed his government would undertake a more thorough inspection, but deflected the offer of U.S. assistance, claiming the RoC wanted to go "step by step" before committing to off-load any cargo. As to press, he concurred with the proposed strategy, requesting the Embassy limit its commentary to confirmation that U.S. forces had boarded the vessel a week earlier in the Red Sea.
Urbancic